

Mr. Les Whitten  
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9/20/76

Dear Les,

If Mark has not told you that for the first time I've stipulated credit to help, I have and I'll explain the reasons.

He sent me a copy of a released CIA document I have but did not have time to dig out of the batch I've not gone through. I'd been in court all day, a long one, and I was not feeling well. But instead of preparing for the next day in court, which I did not do in any event, I read what he sent and phoned him. I can see several very good columns in it. By this I also mean accurate ones.

The situation has changed radically. When Mark spoke to me I expressed my concern over the irresponsibilities I expect from the House committee and those feeding it, you and others. I told him I would not be part of such irresponsibility and have ~~passed it~~ spent the past 13 years as I have to begin it ~~now~~ now.

Since then there has been miserably unethical stuff of the kind I've come to expect from this strange gang of nuts, whores and self-seeking egomaniacs. Lane has stolen Les Payne's work and mine and working with NBC, has palmed it off as his in a Newsworld piece and NBC's to Fauntroy and on the air, radio and TV both.

Of course I resent this perpetual thievery that with Lane goes back to his first book and has never stopped. As an investigator he could not find public hair in an over-worked and undercleans whorehouse. But my real worry is the also perpetual misdirection and misleading of every official investigation, beginning with Garrison's.

Whatever they would have been in their own right Downing and Gonzalez have been maniacs on the political assassination. They require none of this misleading for the new investigation to be another ~~more~~ national trauma, another coverup or another non-investigation in which blame is allocated unfairly, as Schweiker did.

Perfection is not a state of man. But I do try to be accurate and honest and I've had no complaints in all these years. These ripoff artists are insane on this subject and will do anything. Do do it, too. I have to find some way of influencing this investigation away from the irrationals and irrationalities, from all the idle and often basely theorizing to solid fact, a real investigation. This is what I really have in mind in the condition I stipulated to Mark for taking the time and being of help: trying to direct the House committee into the straight and narrow.

It is not only that I have the knowledge and will take the time. I now have unique credentials. The FBI has certified to a federal court that I know more about this than anyone in the FBI. The federal appeals court has ruled that the suppressed evidence I seek serves the nation's interest, not mine alone.

I've spotted at least some of the disinformation in the papers Mark sent me. I have records that will fill the blanks in. A good job of exposure may lead to great sensations. I've offered him access to all the relevant records I have. It cost me quite a bit to obtain some of them. Two law suits are involved, one current. I can provide what I believe is a major bit that is also relevant and is quite topical. But I'm not going to do this under conditions that permit the kind of inaccuracy and dishonesty of which I've complained nor under any conditions that will permit these ~~crooks~~ crooks and whores to build themselves on it. There is not and there cannot be personal gain for me in credit, which is normal in any event. There can be hurt to what I represent and want to come to pass from the lack of it. The beginning of that committee is a crucial time. They have already asked whirdos to be consultants but not me. Or, the damage is done and I want to try to correct it when it is impossible for me to lay court to the Hill or to compete with these characters who have poison<sup>ed</sup>/those they can against me. The Lane-NBC thievery is disgusting. Les Payne: 516/294-3659, Newsday. Best,